

*LB*  
~~change-of-direction pulleys, 25-27, reduces the risk thereof~~  
The spring-loaded block 31 achieves a considerable reduction in the risk of kinking and tangling of the wire and simultaneously reduces the stress on the feed pulley 20 and on its motor and gearbox if any, which may result in increased lifetime of these parts. Application of the invention permits the use of a very high wire feed rate.

[0015] Although the invention herein has been described with reference to particular embodiments, it is to be understood that these embodiments are merely illustrative of the principles and applications of the present invention. It is therefore to be understood that numerous modifications may be made to the illustrative embodiments and that other arrangements may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

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